



# Debris Management Plan



Earthquakes, fires, floods, landslides, heavy snow, high winds and an occasional tornado have all helped California earn the title the “Disney Land of Disasters”. Disasters are occurring more often and are creating unprecedented amounts of debris. In addition, larger, even complex developments are being built in disaster-prone areas.

As a result of the increasing amounts of debris, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) is encouraging local and state governments to plan and prepare for a disastrous event by developing a “Debris Management Plan”.

## Debris Management Interim Plans

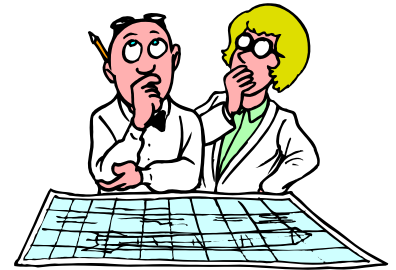
A debris management plan needs to address both short-term and long-term actions and responsibilities as a result of a disaster.

### Short-term Activities

- Establish debris removal priorities
- Debris clearance from roads for emergency vehicles, law enforcement, resumption of critical services and damage assessment personnel

### First response:

- First priority:
  - o Hospitals
  - o Police
  - o Fire/rescue stations
  - o Airports and seaports
  - o Residential areas
- Second priority:
  - o Schools
  - o Municipal buildings and shelter
  - o Water and wastewater treatment plants
  - o Power generation units
  - o Residential areas
- Prioritize key routes
- Identify temporary debris sites (if necessary)
- Activate appropriate stand-by contracts
  - o Time and Materials contract used for first 70 hours
    - Must have cap on contract if longer than 70 hours
  - o Maintain close communications
- Coordinate and track resources
  - o Know where your resources are located at all times
  - o Prepare to accommodate changing priorities



## Debris Management Plan

### What should your debris management plan include?

**Mission Statement** - A clear, concise statement that states the plan purpose, assumptions and tasks to be done.

**Concept of Operations** - A clear statement describing how debris removal activities will be conducted.

**Organization** - A structure to control and coordinate debris removal.

**Responsibilities** - Assign specific tasks for debris management responsibilities.

**Actions** - Ensure regulatory compliances, regulations, ordinances, establish working area and debris estimation procedures, develop forms, standard operating procedures, public notices and announcements, develop list of available contractors and sample contracts, award stand-by contracts and select and assess debris sites.

**Appendices** - Establish contact lists, pre-selected debris sites, capacities of existing landfills, environmental/historic requirements, etc.

# Debris Management Plan



## Debris Management Interim Plans - Continued

### Long-term Activities

- Collection and hauling of various debris types:
  - Transportation
  - Traffic control
  - Construction & demolition
  - Wood debris & yard waste
  - Household waste (damaged personal goods)
  - Hazardous Household Waste
  - Contaminated Waste (bio-hazards, radioactive materials, chemicals, etc.)
- Storage of the debris
  - Where
  - Alternate sites
  - Reducing debris volume
  - Final disposal
- Managing appropriate debris contracts
- Debris Monitoring
  - Enforce curbside debris separation
  - Debris site visits
  - Familiarity of contracts
  - Time and Materials
  - Unit Price
  - Lump Sum
  - Proper load compaction (for trucks)
  - Monitor all contractor operations
  - Illegal dumping
  - Closing temporary debris management sites
- Locating, leasing, opening, operating debris management sites
- Compliance with environmental and historic regulations
- Documentation of all actions, costs, including labor, equipment, materials, rental equipment, property leases, inspections, monitoring costs, contracts, etc.



### Additional Resources

- 📖 Disaster Plan, California Dept. of Resources Recycling & Recovery (CalRecycle)
- 📖 Debris Management Guide, FEMA
- 📖 [Debris Removal Flyer](#)
- 📖 [Private Property Debris Removal](#)

### 🌐 Web Sites

- [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- [www.calrecycle.ca.gov](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov)



### Remember!!!



- ☞ Local and state emergency managers are encouraged to develop a Debris Management Plan for their communities in anticipation of potential disaster events.
- ☞ The primary purpose of the Plan is to define roles of essential agencies and personnel necessary to execute debris clearance, removal and disposal activities.
- ☞ The Plan provides a process to assess the magnitude and type of debris resulting from an event.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DEBRIS MANAGEMENT CONTACT:

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### Regulations:

44 CFR, Section 206.224  
Stafford Act, Sections 403 & 407

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